

Response in Arid-lands for Pastoralists in Drought Affected Kenya (RAPID)

The RAPID Project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by a Consortium of four Non-Governmental Organizations: VSF Germany, VSF Suisse, the Pastoralist Integrated Support Programme (PISP, Kenya NGO) and Telecoms sans Frontieres (TSF).

Background

The La Niña phenomenon started in August 2010 causing a severe drought in the arid and semi-arid regions of the Horn of Africa, including Northern Kenya. By mid 2011, the drought affected 13 million people and led to between 50,000 and 100,000 human deaths. The RAPID project was initiated in response to this humanitarian crisis.

Principal Objective

To mitigate the impact of drought on vulnerable pastoralist communities in Northern Kenya and to support the recovery process.

Specific Objective

RAPID's main aim is to maintain food security and protect livestock as the main livelihood assets of affected pastoralist households in the districts of Turkana West, Marsabit South, North Horr, Loiyangalani, Isiolo and Merti.

The project also rehabilitates water infrastructure, damaged by torrential rains and flooding that followed immediately after the drought and supports peace building initiatives to reduce inter-communal conflict and to improve access to pastures.

Component	Beneficiaries Number of HH	Deliverables
Cash Transfer Programming	2,200	12,000 KES
MPESA pilot	350	12,000 KES
Destocking	2,300	4 goats per HH
Meat distribution	3,200	18kg/HH
Water	2,500	20 structures improved
Animal health	4,100	200,000 sheep & goats vaccinated

The project has four main components:

1. Food-Security

Cash for Assets Schemes

2200 households are targeted with cash-for-work and direct cash injection activities to contribute to their monthly food-basket. One household is entitled to 20 days of work at Kenya Shilling 300 per day. Each household receives Kenya Shilling 6,000 under the cash-for-work scheme and an additional Kenya Shilling 6,000 in the form of direct cash transfers. Direct cash injection also targets the most vulnerable households (female headed, elderly, affected by HIV or chronic illness) who are unable to participate in cash-for-work scheme.

As part of a pilot carried out together with Télécoms sans Frontières (TSF) 350 of the target households receive payments by electronic cash transfer via the MPESA system. This reduces transaction costs and risks related to transporting large cash amounts in the field.



Shoats ready for sale at the slaughter site and GOK Public Health Officer inspecting the body condition of the shoats.

Destocking combined with meat distribution

A total of 5500 households are targeted with destocking and meat distribution. 2300 households with viable herds that survived the drought derive income from sales of animals, while an estimated 3200 destitute households benefit from meat distribution (18 kg meat / household / 6 weeks). Part of the meat distribution will use an innovative meat voucher system, supplying meat through established meat marketing channels (butchers, female meat traders) thereby injecting cash directly into the local livestock economy.

2. Livestock

Drought triggers long-distance migration of livestock, overstocking of herds on remaining pastures and increased transmission of infectious diseases. Vaccinations limit the spread of infections with returning herds and protect livestock against devastating diseases (PPR, Pox, Enterotoxaemia). The project aims to protect 200,000 sheep and goats through combined vaccinations and thus protect the main assets for an estimated 4100 pastoralist households. Treatment of sick animals and reducing the worm-burden of sheep and goats complement the vaccination effort to ensure that surviving animals can develop optimum productivity throughout the favourable pasture situation following the drought.



Turkana woman with lamb suffering from Pox. The VSF-Germany RAPID project is vaccinating 200,000 sheep and goats against this devastating infection.

3. Water

The project rehabilitates 20 water structures, mainly shallow wells, and improves protective structures, watering troughs and storage capacity of an operating borehole, serving two districts. While 2500 households are benefitting from improved access to water, the strengthened water infrastructure also contributes directly to drought preparedness and enhances the resilience of pastoralists.



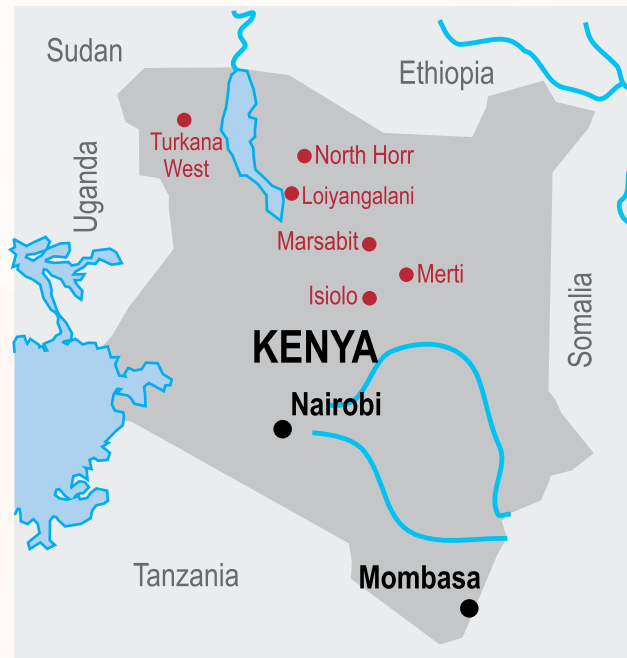
Destroyed (unprotected) shallow well along the river bank at El Waano before drainage and de-silting.

4. Peace Building

Inter-communal conflict triggered by livestock theft and competition over resources prevents utilisation of grazing areas bordered by different ethnic groups. In drought situations, non-accessibility of pastures threatens survival of livestock and livelihoods of their owners. The RAPID project is supporting three peace forums working to build a good long-term relationship between neighbouring Gabbra and Samburu communities in Marsabit.



Veterinary team in Marsabit treating a sick camel.



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